REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Corrections to the specification have been made in view of the Examiner's comments.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Cardinal in view of Krent et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

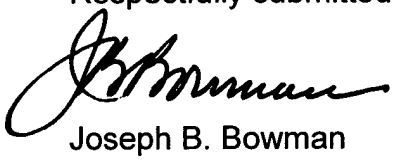
Cardinal and the proposed combination with Krent differ significantly from the intent, construction and claim limitations of Applicant's invention, particularly with respect to the finger stalls. Cardinal illustrates in Figs. 3 & 4 and discloses at Column 2, lines 56 - 67 that each finger stall has at least two, separate padded sections 20 & 21. Even Krent, although disclosing body padding, discloses discrete and separated padding sections. It should be specifically noted that when the adjacent pads 20 & 21 of Cardinal are flexed (as in Fig. 4), or when adjacent pads of Krent are flexed, an opening occurs between the pads 20 & 21 which exposes the wearer's hand to virtually a single or double layer of leather protection. This would not be significant if impact comes from a larger object incapable of penetrating this opening between the pads. However, the opening is significant for penetration by the edge of a molded hockey blade which can impart a serious injury under such circumstances. Applicant's invention seeks to eliminate these types of injury by protecting the full length of the finger stall.

As illustrated and described with reference to Figs. 1 - 4 of the specification, and as set forth in Claim 1, the finger stall has a "padding layer overlying said finger stall **throughout the length thereof**". The same cannot be said for Cardinal or for the proposed combination with Krent.

The foregoing distinction is also present and amplified in Claim 2 with the language requiring that the flexible hinge panel interconnects "**adjacent edges split laterally across** said wear resistant cover." This is not the case with Cardinal where the corresponding wear cover conforms to the padding section and results in the opening between adjacent padding sections that Applicant eliminates with his construction. With reference to Fig. 2, therefore, if a thin edged object such as a hockey blade contacts the hinge panel 44, the panel 44's movement into the notch of the high density foam 42 tends to cause the padding to pinch the hockey blade so that the hinge panel 44, high density foam 42 and low density foam 40 cooperate to protect the user's finger in that region. Traditional hockey gloves, such as Cardinal, do not provide such protection because the pads for the finger stall are separate and distinct.

In view of the foregoing amendment and response, it is believed the case is in condition for allowance. Such action in the regular course of business is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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